

Remarks

This is a preliminary amendment, under 37 CFR 1.173(b) of a reissue application. Claims 2-6 and 8-21 of Patent No. 6,387,453 are not amended, and remain pending as originally issued. Claims 1 and 7 are amended.

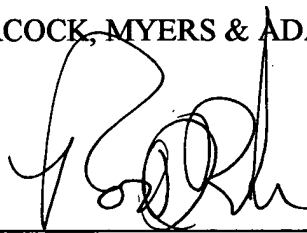
This is a broadening reissue. Claim 1 is amended primarily to delete the requirement that the prepared sol be limited to a "silica" sol. While several embodiments of the inventive method involve the preparation of a silica sol, the invention need not be so limited.

Claim 7 is amended in two respects. Typographical errors resulted in two redundancies in the claim. The compound tetraethylorthosilicate is listed twice in the claim's Markush group. To eliminate this redundancy, the first occurrence is changed to "tetramethylorthosilicate." Support for this amendment is found, for example, at column 3, lines 39-41 of the patent. The compound aluminum iso-propoxide also is recited twice in the claim's Markush group. This redundancy is eliminated by simply deleting the first occurrence of the term.

Expedited amendment, examination, and allowance is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner has any questions or suggestions to promote the allowance of the application, he or she is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 23, 2003

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